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Illinois
Environmental
Protection Agency

Office of Community Relations
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

February 2004

UPDATE

New Jersey Zinc/Mobil Chemical Superfund Site DePue, Illinois

South Ditch. The potentially responsible parties (PRPs) are in the process of procuring a contractor to construct the remedy designated in the October 2003 Record of Decision. The remedy is removal of unnatural sediments from the ditch and placing them in an interim containment cell on the plant property. The work will be completed by late fall or early winter 2004 if the lake and river levels that affect the South Ditch are at their normal seasonal levels.

Overall Remedial Investigation of the Plant Property. In response to Illinois EPA comments, the PRPs have submitted a revised Phase I remedial investigation report. This report conveys and interprets the results of the Phase I on-site remedial investigation. The Illinois EPA completed the review of this revision and returned comments to the PRPs in January. When the PRPs submit an approvable report, the Illinois EPA will place the report in the project repository in the Selby Township Library in DePue distribute a fact sheet summarizing the report.

Lake DePue. Late this month, the Illinois EPA expects an update from the PRPs on the status of the work plan for an investigation of the lake.

Gypsum Stack. Last fall and early winter, the PRPs rebuilt the clear water pond that is visible from Route 29. By the fall of 2004, all the water from the top of the gypsum stack will be directed to the clear water pond.

The discharge from the gypsum stack to an unnamed tributary of Negro Creek has had small exceedances of the limits set for fluoride, unionized ammonia, sulfate and total dissolved solids. These limits are requirements for compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The NPDES is a federal law that regulates the amount, chemical concentration and other characteristics of discharges to the water of the state. The PRPs are taking prompt action to determine the causes for these exceedances and are working with the Illinois EPA to correct the problem.

Off-Site Soil--Including Residential Soil. The Illinois EPA will meet with the PRPs in February to discuss their intentions about performing the off-site (including residential soil) assessment and sampling. It is currently expected that the PRPs will perform this assessment, however, if the PRPs resist, the Illinois EPA is committed to perform the work this fall.

Water Treatment Plant. The PRPs have submitted a work plan for additional surface water studies to the Illinois EPA for review. These studies will assess the quality and quantity of surface water that might be leaving the site from areas beyond the current water collection system.

(Over)

These studies will also provide data that may assist in reducing the frequency of bypasses of the water treatment plant. Occasionally, there have been bypasses during major storms, because the system cannot handle the volume of water generated by these storms. The water volume could be reduced if the studies identify potentially clean water that does not need treatment so could be diverted away from the collection and treatment system. In almost six years of operation, however, there is no indication that the more heavily contaminated water from the slag pile area has bypassed the treatment system. The water that bypasses the system during these storms is from the North Ditch, which has significantly lower concentrations of metals. The Illinois EPA anticipates that the review of this work plan will be complete this month.

Why doesn't the Illinois EPA order PRPs to conduct the work?

Neither Illinois law nor the federal Superfund law gives the Illinois EPA authority to order PRPs to conduct work.

The work at this site is being conducted under an interim consent order negotiated and signed by the State of Illinois and the PRPs. This order is consistent with the Superfund law, which allows the PRPs the opportunity to conduct work. The interim consent order describes what work is required of the PRPs, but it does not specify how it will be conducted.

In practical terms, this means the PRPs submit, for example, a draft plan of work describing how work required in the interim consent order is to be conducted. The Illinois EPA sends comments back to the PRPs if the Agency disagrees with parts of the work plan. Examples of possible disagreements about work plans could include differences in the number, location and types of samples to be collected or differences in the chemicals for which the samples should be analyzed. A current example of a disagreement on a document is that the Illinois EPA and the PRPs disagree about which chemicals should be designated as chemicals of concern in the Phase I Remedial Investigation Report of the plant property.

Depending upon the seriousness of differences between the Illinois EPA and the PRPs, there could be one to many exchanges of draft documents and comments. The interim consent decree provides for a dispute resolution process if the differences are not resolved. If the PRPs disagree with the results of the dispute resolution process, they have the right to appeal the decision in court.

The Superfund law and interim consent decree make these provisions to protect the PRPs since they are paying for the action. If the PRPs did not pay for the work, the cost of the action would fall upon the taxpayers.

For More information

Contacts: You may contact Virginia Wood Forrer, Illinois EPA Community Relations Coordinator, or Rich Lange, Illinois EPA Project Manager, at 1021 North Grand Ave. East; P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, IL 62794-9276. Virginia Forrer's e-mail address is Virginia.Forrer@epa.state.il.us and her telephone number is 217/785-1269. Rich Lange's email address is Rich.Lange@epa.state.il.us and his telephone number is 815/447-2125.

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Administrative Record File: The administrative record file contains all documents upon which

project decisions are based. This file is located in the Springfield office of the Illinois EPA. Call for an appointment at 217/782-9878. A copy of the administrative record file index is located in the project repository in the Selby Township Library in DePue. The documents listed in this index are included in the repository documents.

PRP Contact: The PRP contact is Jim Frank, Frank and West, 7226 N. State Route 29, Springfield, IL 62707, telephone number 217/487 7687.



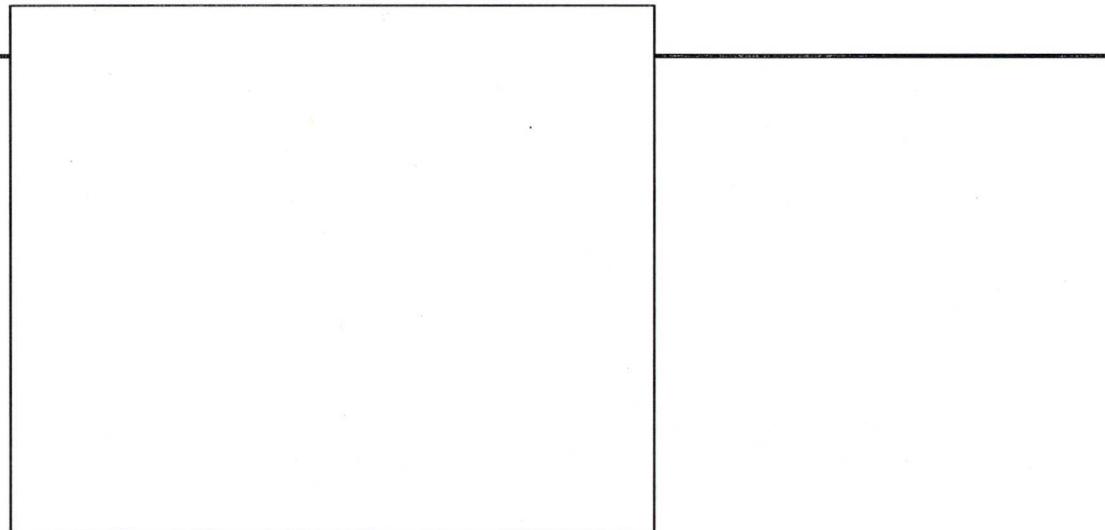
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September 2003

Update **New Jersey Zinc/Mobil Chemical Superfund Site DePue, Illinois**

What is the Illinois EPA's decision about the remedy for the South Ditch unnatural sediments? The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA or Agency) has chosen removal of the South Ditch unnatural sediments and on-site storage of the sediment in an interim containment cell. The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) concurs with this decision. The agencies signed a record of decision in September 2003 to document this decision. The Illinois EPA has written a responsiveness summary that summarizes the comments received during the comment period and the Illinois EPA and U.S. EPA's responses to these comments. This summary, as well as the South Ditch Record of Decision, is in the Selby Township Library in DePue for public review.



What were the events leading to this decision?

May 1998. The PRPs submitted a proposal to remedy the South Ditch sediments by leaving them in place and constructing a cap over the sediment.

Illinois EPA rejected this proposal for several reasons including the fact it did not comply with state and federal regulations.

February 2001. At Illinois EPA request, the PRPs submitted a revision of the initial plan as a presumptive remedy. In this revision, the unnatural sediments would be dredged from the South Ditch and placed in an on-site interim containment cell. The PRPs assumed that a waiver of water pollution control laws and regulations would be necessary and the Illinois EPA had the authority and would support that waiver. The Illinois EPA does not have this authority at this time.

September 9, 2002. The Illinois EPA issued a proposed plan to remove the unnatural sediments from

the South Ditch and deposit them in an on-site interim containment cell. This proposed plan required compliance with federal and state water pollution control laws and regulations or validation that relief from these laws and regulations is necessary. The Agency opened a public comment period on the proposal and other studied alternatives. At the PRPs' request, the Illinois EPA extended the closing date of the comment period from November 12 to December 20, 2002.

October 9, 2002. The Illinois EPA held a public hearing to receive oral comments on the proposed plan and other studied alternatives.

Who submitted comments to the Illinois EPA during the public comment period? The Illinois EPA received oral comments from citizens and Viacom International Inc. at the public hearing. The DePue Village Board of Trustees and the Bureau County Board submitted written resolutions supporting removal of the South Ditch sediments and hauling the sediments to a permitted off-site landfill. Two citizens supported this same position with written comments. One citizen submitted written comments on different issues, and the potentially responsible parties¹ (PRPs) submitted extensive legal and technical written comments.

Why did the Illinois EPA choose removal of the sediments and on-site storage in an interim containment cell? After carefully considering all questions and comments, the Illinois EPA, with U.S. EPA concurrence, chose the remedy proposed in the September 2002 proposed plan for a number of reasons including the following:

- The remedy meets all federal and state laws and requirements.
- An on-site containment cell will be as safe as an off-site landfill permitted for similar material, because they both must meet similar standards.
- The nearest landfill suitable for the South Ditch sediments is about 60 miles from DePue. Hauling the sediment 60 miles, compared to one mile from the ditch to an on-site interim containment cell, is an increased safety hazard. The greater transportation distance increases the risk of accident and accidental release of contaminants to the environment.
- The 1995 Interim Consent Decree signed by the PRPs and the State of Illinois requires that all investigations and remedies complement one another if possible. The Interim Consent Decree presumes that the most likely remedy for the slag pile is on-site closure because of its large volume. Selection of any remedy will go through the standard remedy selection process including submitting a proposed plan to the public for comment.
- By maintaining the South Ditch sediments in an on-site containment cell, the sediments remain a candidate for technologies such as metals recovery. This alternative and other resource recovery alternatives may prove viable during the remedy selection process for other units such as the primary zinc slag pile.
- The South Ditch remedy is only an interim remedy, so the final fate of the South Ditch sediments will be made when a decision is made about all the on-site contamination. The South Ditch sediment is only about 0.4 percent of the total on-site contaminated materials,² so its relatively small volume will have little or no influence on the final decision about the site remedy.

What are the next steps for remedying the South Ditch unnatural sediments?

Beginning this fall and finishing in the year 2004, the PRPs will construct the South Ditch remedy designated in the Record of Decision. Completion in 2004 is dependent upon normal seasonal lake and river levels that affect surface water levels in the South Ditch.

Overall Remedial Investigation of the Plant Property

What is the status of the overall investigation of the plant property? The following are actions accomplished in the last two years:

December 2000. The PRPs for the site completed the fieldwork for the Phase I investigation of the plant property.

June 2002. The PRPs submitted a draft three-inch report describing and interpreting sample results. This report is called a remedial investigation (RI) report.

February 2003. The Illinois EPA and its contractor thoroughly reviewed this document and returned substantial comments to the PRPs. One of Illinois EPA's more significant comments was that the PRPs used an inappropriate method to determine which chemicals on the site are of concern. The PRPs will soon be submitting alternative methods for determining chemicals of concern and these will be reviewed by the Illinois EPA.

What are the next steps in the remedial investigation of the plant property? The following are anticipated next steps for the plant property investigation.

- This winter, the Illinois EPA anticipates that the PRPs will submit a revised copy of the RI report that will meet Agency approval. At that time, the Agency will summarize the report in a fact sheet to be distributed to the project mailing list and place the full report in the project repository located in the Selby Township Library in DePue.
- The Illinois EPA and the PRPs will identify data gaps. Data gaps are questions that need to be answered before the remedy is designed. For example, if present data showed contamination at 10 feet and no samples were collected below 10 feet, then an unanswered question would be, "Is contamination present at depths greater than 10 feet?"
- If there are data gaps, the PRPs will develop a Phase II work plan to gather information to fill these data gaps.
- After the Illinois EPA approves the Phase II work plan, the PRPs will conduct the fieldwork described in the approved work plan.
- The PRPs will repeat this process until they have gathered the information necessary to develop a study of alternatives (feasibility study or FS). They will then prepare an FS, which must be approved by the Illinois EPA.
- The Illinois EPA will designate one of the alternatives studied in the approved FS as a proposed

plan and submit the FS and the proposed plan to the public for comment.

- After considering public comments, the Illinois EPA will choose a remedy for the plant property. The Illinois EPA will document this remedy in a record of decision.
- The Illinois EPA and PRPs will negotiate a second consent decree. If negotiations are successful, the PRPs will agree to construct the remedy designated in the record of decision.

Lake DePue

What is the status of the Lake DePue investigation? The PRPs are preparing a work plan for the lake and the southeast area. See the map on the first page. When the PRPs submit a work plan that the Illinois EPA can approve, the PRPs will begin the fieldwork described in the work plan.

Water Treatment Plant

What is the status of the water treatment plant? The water treatment system continues to collect groundwater (water beneath the ground) and surface runoff from the plant property and remove high levels of metals before the water is discharged into the Illinois River. The water treatment plant is operating as expected. During heavy rainfall, there have been several bypasses of the system. The system cannot handle the volume of water generated during these unusual events. In almost six years of operation, however, there is no indication that the more heavily contaminated water from the slag pile area bypassed the treatment system. Instead, the water that bypasses the system during these storm events is water from the North Ditch, which has significantly lower concentrations of metals. The improvements to the collection system and management of uncontaminated water have significantly reduced the frequency of bypasses.

July 2002. The PRPs submitted a proposal to the Illinois EPA for additional surface water studies. These studies ultimately will lead to diversion of additional clean water around the site, enhanced storm water retention or other improvements to storm water management.

August 2002. The Illinois EPA returned written comments on the proposal to the PRPs.

December 2002. The PRPs submitted a revised proposal in response to Illinois EPA concerns.

February 2003. The Illinois EPA returned comments on the PRPs' December 2002 proposal. One Illinois EPA comment was that the PRPs must "present a new list of analytical parameters³ and a rational for each sample point where a reduced parameter list is proposed."

July 2003. The PRPs submitted a revised plan and it is under review at this time.

Next steps. After the PRPs submit a plan for additional surface water studies that the Illinois EPA can approve, the PRPs will conduct the fieldwork to implement the plan.

Gypsum Stack

What is the status of work on the gypsum stack? The PRPs are ahead of schedule in regrading, seeding and dewatering the gypsum stack located north of Route 29. The PRPs anticipate completing the regrading and seeding of the gypsum stack by late 2004. The PRPs have completed excavation of phosphogypsum from the Clearwater Pond (the pond at the base of the stack that is visible from Highway 29) and have placed it in the southwestern section on top of the stack. Rebuilding or reconstruction of the Clearwater Pond is expected to be completed this fall.

What are the next steps for work on the gypsum stack? The final remaining pond in the southeast quadrant of the phosphogypsum stack will be emptied this fall and the southeast quadrant will be regraded, seeded and vegetated during 2004. The PRPs also are proceeding with a hydrogeological study that will complete characterization of subsurface conditions and groundwater quality. The data from the hydrogeologic study will help guide final closure options and will be used to implement a long-term monitoring program.

Off-Site Soil--Including Residential Soil

What about off-site soil sampling including sampling of residential soil? This fall, the Illinois EPA will meet with the PRPs to begin planning for off-site soil sampling. In 1992, the Illinois EPA detected elevated levels of metals in 20 residential soil samples. The purpose of future sampling is to determine if the elevated levels pose a health threat to residents exposed over the long term. The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) evaluated the 1992 soil samples and concluded that metals concentrations in these samples did not pose a risk over the short term. In the meantime, IDPH recommended that residents take common sense precautions to limit their exposure to soil. These precautions included not allowing children to eat outside, washing hands before eating and keeping windows closed during windy days when dirt could blow into the house.

Land Use Committee

What is the Land Use Committee? The Village of DePue was awarded a grant of services in July of 2002 by the U. S. EPA. The purpose of the grant was to assist the community in developing a set of future land use recommendations for the New Jersey Zinc/Mobil Chemical Superfund site. These recommendations are intended to provide guidance to the Illinois EPA and the U.S. EPA on the community's reuse goals for the site. The consultant team guiding this process, E² Inc., has helped assemble a committee consisting of a diverse group of community members as well as the PRPs since the PRPs are major landowners. This committee, referred to as the Land Use Committee, met in late March and again in late May to discuss the community's preferences for reuse of the Superfund site. A number of community interests and ideas for the site's reuse were touched on at the first meeting, including:

- the importance of Lake DePue as a tourist attraction and an ecological resource,
- the need for new economic growth in the Village and
- the potential for expanding recreational opportunities in DePue.

Based on this discussion, E² Inc. conducted and presented research to the Land Use Committee on the potential economic benefits of marketing the Village as an ecotourism destination with hiking, biking and wildlife viewing opportunities. The consultant team also presented the committee members with a variety of resources that can aid the Village in marketing, designing and funding the development of recreational facilities in the community. E² Inc. is currently crafting a Draft Conceptual Reuse Plan for the site based on suggestions and issues raised at the two meetings and will present this plan to Village of DePue officials for review in the coming months before delivering the final plan to the U.S. EPA and Illinois EPA.

South Ditch

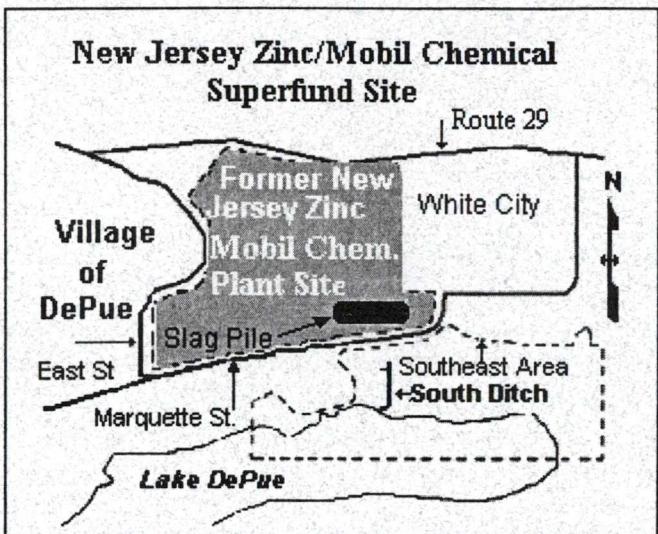
¹ The PRPs for this site are Horsehead Industries, Inc., Exxon Mobil Corporation and Viacom International Inc.

² The volume of South Ditch sediments is estimated to be 7,900 cubic yards compared to an estimated 763,000 cubic yards of slag in the slag pile. Also, the lithopone ridges on site contain an estimated 71,000 cubic yards of material and other on-site waste and slag is estimated at about 1,021,000 cubic yards.

³ Parameters are variable characteristics. In this case, the parameters or variable characteristics of water samples include the type and amount of chemicals and the amount of total dissolved solids. Samples are only analyzed for the important characteristics (a list of parameters) for a given situation. Sometimes there is disagreement about which parameters are important.



Update New Jersey Zinc/Mobil Chemical Superfund Site DePue, Illinois



South Ditch

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responsiveness summary that summarizes the comments received during the comment period and the Illinois EPA and U.S. EPA's responses to these comments. This summary, as well as the South Ditch Record of Decision, is in the Selby Township Library in DePue for public review.

What were the events leading to this decision?

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Illinois EPA rejected this proposal for several reasons including the fact it did not comply with state and federal regulations.

February 2001. At Illinois EPA request, the PRPs submitted a revision of the initial plan as a presumptive remedy. In this revision, the unnatural sediments would be dredged from the South Ditch and placed in an on-site interim containment cell. The PRPs assumed that a waiver of water pollution control laws and regulations would be necessary and the Illinois EPA had the authority and would support that waiver. The Illinois EPA does not have this authority at this time.

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March 2004

UPDATE

New Jersey Zinc/Mobil Chemical Superfund Site DePue, Illinois

South Ditch. The potentially responsible parties (PRPs¹) have retained Apollo Environmental Strategies to construct the remedy designated in the October 2003 Record of Decision. The remedy will be removal of unnatural sediments from the ditch and placing them in an interim containment cell on the plant property. The work is anticipated to be completed by late fall or early winter 2004 if lake and river levels that affect the South Ditch are at their normal seasonal levels.

Overall Remedial Investigation of the Plant Property. In response to Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) comments, the PRPs have submitted a revised Phase I remedial investigation report. This report conveys and interprets the results of the Phase I on-site remedial investigation. The Illinois EPA completed the review of this revision and returned comments to the PRPs in January 2004. When the PRPs submit a report that the Illinois EPA can approve, the report will be placed in the project repository at the Selby Township Library in DePue. At that time, the Illinois EPA will distribute a fact sheet summarizing the report.

Lake DePue. By March 2004, the Illinois EPA expects an update from the PRPs on the status of the work plan for an investigation of the lake.

Gypsum Stack. During 2003, the PRPs rebuilt the Clearwater Pond that is visible from Route 29. By the end of 2004, the remaining pond on top of the gypsum stack will be closed.

The discharge from the gypsum stack to an unnamed tributary of Negro Creek located just east of the gypsum stack recently has had small occasional exceedances of limits set in Illinois Pollution Control Board regulations for fluoride, unionized ammonia, sulfate and total dissolved solids. These constituents are typical of gypsum stack systems. The Illinois Pollution Board Regulations are set to ensure compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The NPDES regulates the amount, chemical concentration and other characteristics of substances in discharges to the waters of the state. The PRPs are taking prompt action to determine the causes for these occasional exceedances and are working with the Illinois EPA to correct the problem.

Off-Site Soil--Including Residential Soil. The Illinois EPA expects that the PRPs will submit a draft work plan for sampling off-site soil--including residential soil--by the end of April 2004. The Illinois EPA will review this draft, and if necessary, return comments to the PRPs. When the PRPs submit a work plan that the Illinois EPA can approve, the PRPs can begin the process of obtaining consent from property owners for soil sampling. Soil sampling is tentatively planned for fall 2004 if the Illinois EPA and the PRPs can rapidly agree on the work plan.

Water Treatment Plant. The PRPs have submitted a work plan for additional surface water studies of the former plant site to the Illinois EPA for review. These studies will assess the quality and quantity of surface water that might be leaving the site from areas beyond the current water collection system.

¹ The PRPs for this site are Horsehead Industries, Inc., Exxon Mobil Corporation and Viacom International Inc.

For More information

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PRP Contacts: The PRP co-project managers are Dan Burnham (Superfund Consultant, Exxon Mobil Corporation, 3225 Gallows Road, Fairfax, VA 22037-0001, telephone number 703/846-3272) and Jim Frank (Frank and West, 7226 N. State Route 29, Springfield, IL 62707, telephone number 217/487 7687).



Últimos Acontecimientos

Sitio de Superfund New Jersey Zinc / Mobil Chemical DePue, Illinois

Zanja Sur. Las entidades potencialmente responsables (PRP, según sus siglas en inglés¹) han contratado los servicios de Apollo Environmental Strategies para adoptar la medida correctiva especificada en el Acta de Decisión de octubre de 2003. Ésta consiste en la excavación de sedimentos que no son propios de la zanja y su almacenamiento en un depósito provisional ubicado en el terreno de la planta. Se espera que el trabajo sea completado aproximadamente a principios del cuarto trimestre de 2004, siempre que los niveles del lago y del río que afectan la zanja sur sean normales este año.

Investigación correctiva general en la propiedad de la planta. Como respuesta a los comentarios de la Agencia de Protección Ambiental de Illinois (EPA de Illinois), las PRP han suministrado un informe revisado de la primera fase de la investigación correctiva, en el cual se divultan e interpretan los resultados de dicha investigación correctiva en el sitio. La EPA de Illinois completó la revisión del informe y le hizo llegar sus comentarios a las PRP en enero de 2004. Cuando las PRP entreguen un informe que pueda ser aceptado por la Agencia, éste será archivado en el depósito del proyecto de la Biblioteca de Selby Township en DePue. Acto seguido, la EPA de Illinois distribuirá una hoja informativa con un resumen acerca del informe.

Lago DePue. En marzo de 2004, la EPA de Illinois espera recibir una actualización de las PRP sobre el estado del plan de trabajo para la investigación en el lago.

Pila de yeso. A lo largo de 2003, las PRP reconstruyeron la Laguna Clearwater, que se divisa desde la Ruta 29. Para finales de 2004, se cerrará lo que queda de la laguna que se encuentra sobre la pila de yeso.

En ocasiones, la descarga de la pila de yeso que se vierte en un afluente sin nombre del Arroyo Negro, ubicado al este de la pila de yeso, excede un poco los límites impuestos por los reglamentos de la Junta para el Control de la Contaminación de Illinois para fluoruro, amoníaco, sulfato y total de sólidos disueltos, elementos típicos encontrados en los sistemas de acumulación de yeso. Las regulaciones de la junta se dictaron ajustadas al Sistema Nacional para la Eliminación de Descargas Contaminantes (SNEDC). El SNEDC regula la cantidad y concentración química, entre otras características, de las sustancias que se vierten en las aguas del estado. Las PRP están tomando medidas urgentes para determinar las causas de estos excesos ocasionales y, junto con la EPA de Illinois, buscan la forma de corregir el problema.

Suelos fuera del sitio, incluyendo suelos residenciales. La EPA de Illinois espera que, para finales de abril, las PRP suministren un borrador de plan de trabajo para la toma de muestras de suelos fuera del sitio, incluyendo los suelos residenciales. La EPA de Illinois revisará el borrador y, de ser necesario, le notificará sus comentarios a las PRP. Una vez que las entidades potencialmente responsables suministren un plan de trabajo que pueda ser aprobado por la EPA de Illinois, las PRP

1 Las PRP para este sitio son Horsehead Industries, Inc., Exxon Mobil Corporation y Viacom Internacional Inc.

Para Mayor Información: Escríbale a Virginia Wood Forrer, Coordinadora de Relaciones de la Comunidad de la EPA de Illinois, y a Rich Lange, Director del Proyecto de la EPA de Illinois, a la siguiente dirección: 1021 North Grand Ave. East; P. O. Box 19276, Springfield, IL 62794-9276. El correo electrónico de Virginia Forrer es Virginia.Forrer@epa.state.il.us y su número telefónico es 217/785-1269. El correo electrónico de Rich Lange es Rich.Lange@epa.state.il.us y su número telefónico es 815/447-2125.

Página web de la EPA de Illinois: Las hojas informativas del proyecto están disponibles en la página web de la EPA de Illinois, cuya dirección es <http://www.epa.state.il.us/community-relations/fact-sheets.html>.

Depósito del Proyecto: La EPA de Illinois ha colocado los documentos del proyecto a disposición del público en la Biblioteca de Selby Township en DePue. Para obtener información acerca de los horarios de atención de la biblioteca, llame al 815/447-2660.

Archivo del Récord Administrativo: El archivo contiene todos los documentos en los que se basan las decisiones del proyecto, y puede ser consultado en la oficina de la EPA de Illinois en Springfield. Para solicitar una cita, llame al 217/782-9878. En el depósito del proyecto de la Biblioteca de Selby Township en DePue se guarda una copia del índice del archivo del récord administrativo. Todos los documentos enumerados en el índice se encuentran en el depósito de documentos.

Información Sobre las PRP: Los encargados del proyecto de las entidades potencialmente responsables son Dan Burnham, Consultor de Superfund, Exxon Mobil Corporation, 3225 Gallows Road, Fairfax, VA 22037-0001; teléfono: 703/846-3272; y Mark Travers, 123 North Wacker Dr. Suite 250, Chicago, IL 60606; teléfono: 312/853-9430 Ext. 214.

ACTUALIZACIÓN

Ubicación del New Jersey Zinc/ Mobil Chemical Superfund en DePue, Illinois.

Dique Sur

¿Cuál es la decisión de EPA Illinois, en relación con el remedio para el problema de los sedimentos no naturales del Dique Sur? La Agencia de Protección Ambiental de Illinois (EPA Illinois o la Agencia) ha escogido remover los sedimentos no naturales del Dique Sur, y almacenarlos en el sitio en una celda provisional de contención.

La Agencia de Protección Ambiental de Estados Unidos (U. S. EPA) está de acuerdo con esta decisión. Las Agencias firmaron un registro de la decisión en septiembre de 2003, para documentar la decisión. La EPA de Illinois ha escrito un resumen comprensible que recopila los comentarios recibidos durante el período de comentarios y tanto EPA Illinois como EPA U. S., respondieron a estos comentarios. Este resumen, al igual que el Registro de Decisiones del Dique Sur, se encuentra en la Biblioteca del Ayuntamiento de Selby en DePue para su revisión pública.

¿Cuáles fueron los acontecimientos que llevaron a tomar esta decisión?

Mayo 1998. Los PRP presentaron una propuesta para remediar el problema de los sedimentos del Dique Sur, en la cual estos se dejan en el lugar y se construye una cápsula sobre los sedimentos.

EPA Illinois rechazó esta propuesta por varias razones, incluyendo el hecho de que no cumplía con los reglamentos estatales ni federales.

Febrero 2001. EPA Illinois solicita que los PRP presenten una revisión del plan inicial como una supuesta solución. En esta revisión, los sedimentos no naturales serían dragados del Dique Sur y colocados en una celda provisional de contención en el sitio. Los PRP suponen que sería necesario la suspensión de las leyes y normativas de control de contaminación de las aguas, y que EPA Illinois tenía la autoridad para hacerlo y apoyaría dicha suspensión. En este momento EPA Illinois no tiene esa autoridad.

Septiembre 9, 2002. EPA Illinois presentó una propuesta de un plan para remover los sedimentos no naturales del Dique Sur y depositarlos en una celda provisional de contención en el sitio. Este plan propuesto necesita cumplir con

las leyes y normas, tanto federales como estatales sobre el control de la contaminación de las aguas, o la validación que exonere de la necesidad de cumplir con dichas leyes y normas, si fuese necesario. Sobre la propuesta y otros estudios alternativos, la Agencia abrió un período de comentarios públicos. EPA Illinois, a solicitud de los PRP extendió la fecha de cierre del período de comentarios del 12 de noviembre al 20 de diciembre de 2002.

Octubre 9, 2002. EPA Illinois sostuvo una audiencia pública para recibir los comentarios orales sobre los estudios alternativos y el plan propuesto.

Nota del traductor. La traducción al gráfico de la primera página es:

Ruta 29 ---- Pueblo de DePue

Antigua ubicación de la planta New Jersey Zinc/ Mobil Chemical

Calle Marquette. Lago DePue . Area Sureste del Dique Sur. Escoria acumulada.

¿Quién presentó comentarios a EPA Illinois durante el período de comentarios públicos?

En la audiencia pública, EPA Illinois recibió comentarios orales de los ciudadanos y de Viacom Internacional Inc. La Junta de Consignatarios y la Junta de la Oficina del Condado, presentaron resoluciones escritas respaldando la remoción de los sedimentos del Dique Sur y el transporte de los sedimentos a un relleno lejos del sitio con el correspondiente permiso.

Mediante comentarios escritos dos ciudadanos respaldaron esta propuesta, un ciudadano presentó comentarios escritos sobre temas diferentes, y las futuras partes responsables potenciales ¹(PRPs) suministraron por escrito extensos comentarios legales y técnicos.

¿Porqué el EPA Illinois escogió la remoción de los sedimentos y almacenamiento en el sitio en una celda de contención temporal? Luego de ponderar cuidadosamente todas las interrogantes y comentarios, la EPA Illinois con el acuerdo de la EPA de los Estados Unidos escogió el remedio sugerido en el plan propuesto en septiembre de 2002, por una serie de razones, incluyendo las siguientes:

- El remedio cumple con todos los requisitos legales federales y estatales.
- La celda de contención en el sitio será tan segura como un relleno permitido lejos del sitio para materiales similares, porque ambas deben cumplir con normas similares.

- El relleno apropiado mas cercano para los sedimentos del Dique Sur está alrededor de 60 millas desde DePue. Acarrear el sedimento por 60 millas, es un riesgo de seguridad mayor si se compara con una milla desde el dique hasta la celda provisional de contención en sitio. La mayor distancia de transporte aumenta el riesgo de accidentes y el de escape de los contaminantes al ambiente.
- El decreto interim por consentimiento de 1995 firmado por los PRP y el Estado de Illinois, exige que toda investigación y remedios se complementen uno al otro si posible. El decreto interim por consentimiento supone que el remedio mas apropiado para la acumulación de escoria es la clausura en el sitio debido a su gran volumen. La selección de cualquier remedio pasará por el proceso normal de selección de remedios incluyendo el someter la planta propuesta a los comentarios del público.
- Mantener los sedimentos del Dique Sur en una celda de contención en el sitio, los hace permanecer como candidatos para aplicarles tecnologías como las de recuperación de metales. Estas y otras alternativas de recuperación de recursos pudieran probar ser viables durante el proceso de selección de remedios para otras unidades, tales como la acumulación de escoria primaria de zinc.
- El remedio del Dique Sur es solo un remedio temporal, de manera que la suerte final de los sedimentos del Dique Sur se hará cuando se tome una decisión acerca de toda la contaminación en el sitio. Los sedimentos del Dique Sur son apenas el 0,4 por ciento del total de materiales contaminados² en el sitio, por lo tanto, su volumen relativamente pequeño tendrá poca o ninguna influencia en la decisión final acerca del remedio del lugar.

¿Cuáles son los próximos pasos para remediar los sedimentos no naturales del Dique Sur?
 Comenzando este otoño y terminando en el año 2004, los PRP construirán el remedio al Dique Sur señalado en el Registro de Decisiones. Su conclusión en 2004 dependerá de niveles estacionales normales del lago y del río que afectan los niveles de las aguas superficiales en el Dique Sur.

Investigación General Reparadora de la Propiedad de la Planta.

¿Cuál es el estado legal de la investigación general reparadora de la propiedad de la planta? Las acciones realizadas en los dos últimos años son las siguientes:
Diciembre 2000. Los PRP para el sitio completaron el trabajo de campo para la Fase I de la investigación de la propiedad de la planta.
Junio 2002. Los PRP entregaron un borrador de informe de tres pulgadas describiendo e interpretando los resultados de la muestra. Este informe se denomina un informe investigación reparadora (RI).
Febrero 2003. El EPA de Illinois y su contratista revisaron detalladamente este documento y presentaron observaciones importantes. Una de las observaciones más significativas del EPA de Illinois fue que los PRP utilizaron un método inapropiado para determinar cuales son los químicos que preocupan, en el lugar. Los PRP presentarán pronto métodos alternativos para determinar los químicos que preocupan y esos serán revisados por el EPA de Illinois.

¿Cuales son los próximos pasos en la investigación reparadora de la propiedad de la planta? Se anticipa que los próximos pasos en la investigación de la propiedad de la planta son los siguientes.

- El EPA de Illinois espera que los PRP presentarán este invierno una copia revisada del informe RI y que contará con la aprobación de la Agencia. En ese momento la Agencia hará un resumen del informe en una hoja que será distribuida a la lista de correspondencia del proyecto y depositará el informe completo en el recipiente localizado en la biblioteca del ayuntamiento de Selby en DePue.
- El EPA de Illinois y los PRP identificarán los vacíos de información. Los vacíos de información son interrogantes que deben ser contestadas antes de diseñar las soluciones. Por ejemplo, si la información actual muestra contaminación a 10 pies y no se recolectaron muestras por debajo de los 10 pies, la interrogante sin respuesta sería, “¿Existe contaminación en profundidades mayores a 10 pies?”
- Si existen vacíos de información, los PRP desarrollarán la Fase II del plan de trabajo para recopilar información a fin de llenar tales vacíos.
- Luego de que el EPA de Illinois apruebe el plan de trabajo de la Fase II, los PRP realizarán el trabajo de campo descrito en el plan de trabajo aprobado.
- Los PRP repetirán este proceso hasta tanto hayan recopilado la información necesaria para desarrollar un estudio de alternativas

(estudio de factibilidad ó FS). Ellos deberán entonces preparar un FS el cual debe ser aprobado por el EPA de Illinois.

- El EPA de Illinois designará una de las alternativas estudiadas en el FS aprobado como un plan propuesto, y presentará al público el FS y el plan propuesto, para comentarios.
- Luego de considerar los comentarios del público, el EPA de Illinois escogerá el remedio para la propiedad de la planta. El EPA de Illinois documentará este remedio en un registro de decisiones.
- El EPA de Illinois y los PRP negociarán un segundo decreto por consentimiento. De ser exitosas las negociaciones, los PRP aceptarán construir el remedio indicado en el decreto por consentimiento.

Lago DePue

¿Cuál es el estado legal de la investigación del Lago DePue? Los PRP están preparando un plan de trabajo para el lago y el área del sudeste. Ver el mapa en la primera página. Cuando los PRP presenten un plan de trabajo que el EPA de Illinois pueda aprobar, iniciarán el trabajo de campo descrito en el plan de trabajo.

Planta de tratamiento de agua.

¿Cuál es el estado de la planta de tratamiento de agua? El sistema de tratamiento de agua continúa recogiendo aguas freáticas (agua debajo de la tierra) y agua derramada en la superficie de la propiedad de la planta y removiendo altos contenidos de metales antes de que el agua sea vaciada en el río Illinois. La planta de tratamiento de agua está operando como esperado. En períodos de fuertes lluvias han ocurrido varios desvíos del sistema. El sistema no puede manejar el volumen de agua que se genera durante tales acontecimientos excepcionales. Sin embargo, en casi seis años de operaciones no existen evidencias de que las aguas fuertemente contaminadas provenientes del área de los cúmulos de escoria hayan evadido el sistema de tratamiento. Por el contrario, el agua que pasó de lado del sistema durante esas tormentas es agua de la Represa Norte (North Ditch), la cual contiene concentraciones significativamente menores de metales. Las mejoras en el sistema de recolección y manejo de las aguas no contaminadas han reducido

considerablemente la frecuencia de desvíos.

Julio 2002. Los PRP presentaron una propuesta de estudios adicionales de las aguas superficiales a la EPA de Illinois. Estos estudios conducirán en última instancia a la desviación de aguas blancas adicionales alrededor de la localidad, aumentando la retención y otras mejoras en el manejo de las aguas torrenciales.

Agosto 2002. El EPA de Illinois emitió comentarios escritos sobre la propuesta a los PRP.

Diciembre 2002. Los PRP presentaron una propuesta revisada en respuesta a las inquietudes del EPA de Illinois.

Febrero 2003. El EPA de Illinois emitió comentarios sobre la propuesta de diciembre de 2002 de los PRP. Uno de los comentarios de la EPA de Illinois fue que los PRP deben “presentar una nueva lista de parámetros analíticos³ y una explicación razonable para cada punto de muestra donde se proponga una lista reducida de parámetros.”

Julio 2003. Los PRP presentaron un plan revisado el cual está siendo analizado en este momento.

Próximos pasos. Luego de que los PRP presenten un plan de estudios adicionales de las aguas superficiales que el EPA de Illinois pueda aprobar, los PRP realizarán el trabajo de campo para instrumentar el plan.

Montón de Yeso.

¿Cuál es la situación del trabajo en el montón de Yeso? Los PRP están más avanzados que está previsto en el programa, nivelando, sembrando y desaguando el montón de yeso localizado al norte de la ruta 29,. Los PRP prevén finalizar el nivelado y la siembra del montón de yeso hacia el final de 2004. Los PRP finalizaron la excavación del yeso- fosforado (phosphogypsum) del estanque Clearwater (el estanque en la base del montón que es visible desde la carretera 29) y lo colocaron en la sección sudoeste en lo alto del montón. Se espera completar este otoño la reconstrucción ó reedificación del estanque Clearwater.

¿Cuáles son los próximos pasos del trabajo en el montón de yeso? El último estanque remanente en el cuadrante sur- oriental del montón de yeso- fosforado se vaciará este otoño y el cuadrante sur- oriental será nivelado, sembrado y provisto de vegetación durante el 2004. Los PRP también están procediendo con el estudio hidrogeológico que completará la representación de las

condiciones del subsuelo y la calidad del agua del subsuelo. La fecha del estudio hidrogeológico ayudará a dirigir las alternativas finales de cierre que serán usadas para instrumentar un programa de seguimiento de largo plazo.

Suelos lejos del lugar- incluyendo suelos residenciales.

¿Qué pasa con el muestreo de suelos lejos del lugar incluyendo muestreo de suelos residenciales? El EPA de Illinois se reunirá este otoño con los PRP para iniciar la planificación del muestreo de los suelos lejos del sitio. En 1992 la EPA de Illinois detectó niveles elevados de metales en 20 muestras de suelos residenciales. El objetivo de los muestreos futuros es determinar si los niveles elevados plantean una amenaza a la salud de los residentes expuestos en un largo período. El Departamento de Salud Pública de Illinois (IDPH) evaluó las muestras de suelo de 1992 y llegó a la conclusión de que las concentraciones de metales en tales muestras no representaban un riesgo a corto plazo. En el interim, el IDPH recomendó que los residentes tomasen precauciones de sentido común para limitar su exposición al suelo. Estas precauciones incluyen el no permitir a los niños comer afuera, lavarse las manos antes de comer y mantener las ventanas cerradas durante días ventosos cuando el polvo pudiera ser llevado por el viento adentro de las casas.

Comité del Uso de la Tierra.

¿Qué es el Comité del Uso de la Tierra? El EPA de los Estados Unidos otorgó en julio de 2002 al pueblo de DePue una donación de servicios. El objetivo de dicha donación es dar asistencia a la comunidad para desarrollar un conjunto de recomendaciones para el uso futuro de la tierra para el sitio del New Jersey Zinc/ Mobil Chemical Superfund. Estas recomendaciones tienen por objeto proporcionar al EPA de Illinois y al EPA de los Estados Unidos asesoramiento sobre los objetivos de nuevo uso de ese sitio para la comunidad. El grupo de asesores que maneja este proceso, E2 Inc., ayudó a reunir un comité que consiste en un grupo diverso de miembros de la comunidad y de los PRP ya que los PRP son los terratenientes más importantes. Este comité, conocido como el Comité de Uso de la Tierra, se reunió a finales de marzo y nuevamente a finales de mayo para discutir las preferencias de la comunidad para el nuevo uso del sitio del Superfund. En la primera reunión se trajeron

una cantidad de intereses e ideas de la comunidad para la reutilización del sitio, incluyendo:

- La importancia del Lago DePue como atractivo turístico y como recurso ecológico,
- La necesidad de nuevo desarrollo económico para el pueblo, y
- El potencial de crecientes oportunidades de recreación en DePue.

En base a esta discusión, E₂ Inc. Llevó a cabo y presentó ante el Comité del Uso de la Tierra una investigación sobre el beneficio económico potencial de mercadear el pueblo como un destino de ecoturismo con oportunidades para excursiones, paseos en bicicleta y observación de la vida silvestre. El grupo de asesores también presentó a los miembros del Comité una serie de recursos que pueden ayudar al pueblo en el mercadeo, diseño y provisión de fondos para el desarrollo de las instalaciones de recreación en la comunidad. E₂ Inc. está actualmente elaborando un borrador conceptual de Plan de Reutilización del sitio en base a las sugerencias y temas que fueron presentados en las dos reuniones y presentará este plan a los funcionarios del pueblo de DePue para su análisis en los próximos meses antes de entregar el plan final a las EPA de los Estados Unidos y de Illinois.

Para más información

Contactos: Puede tomar contacto con Virginia Wood Forrer, Coordinadora de Relaciones con la Comunidad del EPA de Illinois. Ó con Rich Lange, Gerente del Proyecto del EPA de Illinois, en 1021 North Grand Ave. East; P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, IL 62794-9276. El e-mail de Virginia Forrer es: Virginia.Forrer@epa.state.il.us y su número de teléfono es: 217/785-1269. La dirección e-mail de Rich Lange es: Rich.Lange@epa.state.il.us y su número de teléfono es: 815/447-2125.

Página Web de EPA Illinois: Las hojas con actuaciones del Proyecto (Fact sheet) están disponibles en la página Web de EPA Illinois:
<http://www.epa.state.il.us/community-relations/fact-sheets.html>

Recipientes: El EPA Illinois ha colocado los documentos del proyecto para acceso al público en la Biblioteca del Ayuntamiento de Selby en DePue. Para conocer las horas favor llamar a la biblioteca (815/447-2660).

Expediente de archivo administrativo: El expediente de archivo administrativo contiene todos los documentos en los cuales se basaron las decisiones del proyecto. Este archivo está ubicado en la oficina de Springfield

de EPA Illinois. Para citas llamar al 217/782-9878. Una copia del índice del expediente de archivo está ubicada en el recipiente del proyecto en la biblioteca del Ayuntamiento de Selby en DePue. Los documentos incluidos en la lista de este índice están incluidos en el recipiente de documentos.

Contacto con PRP: El contacto de los PRP es Jim Frank, Frank and West, 7226 N. State Route 29 Springfield, IL 62707, número de teléfono: 217/487 7687.

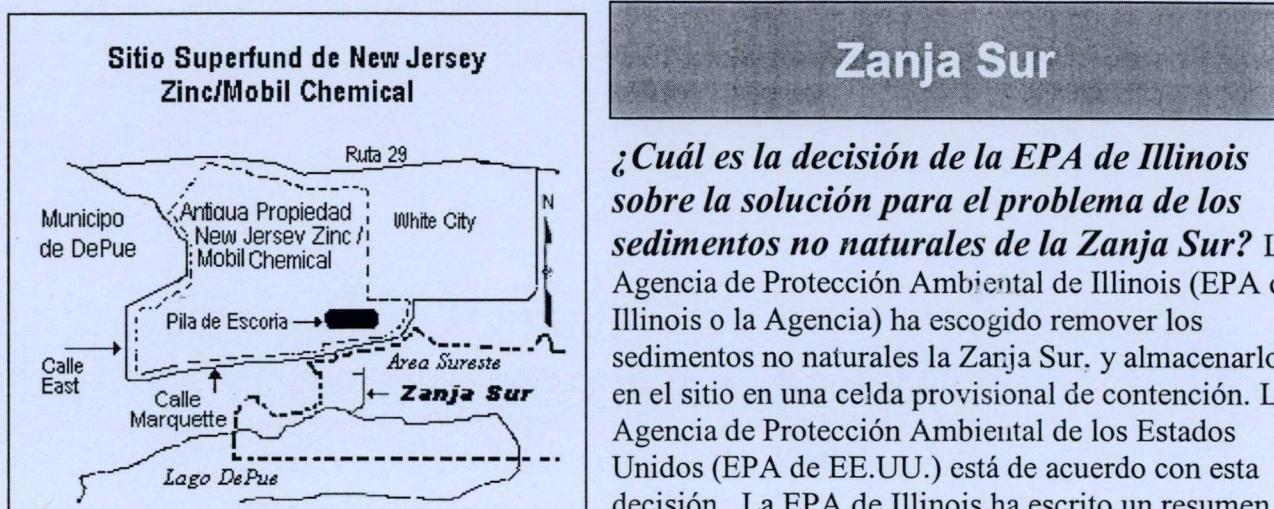
¹ Los PRPs para este lugar son Horsehead Industries, Inc., Exxon Mobil Corporation y Viacom Internacional Inc.

² El volumen de sedimentos del Dique Sur se estima en 7.900 yardas cúbicas, comparado con un estimado de 763.000 yardas cúbicas de escoria en el acumulación de escoria. Además, las lomas de lithopone en el sitio contienen un estimado de 71.000 yardas cúbicas de material y otros desechos y escorias se estiman en alrededor de 1.021.000 yardas cúbicas.

³ Parámetros son características variables. En este caso, los parámetros ó variables características de muestras de agua incluyen el tipo y cantidad de químicos y el monto de sólidos totales disueltos. Las muestras son analizadas tan solo de acuerdo a sus características importantes (una lista de parámetros) en una situación dada. Algunas veces existe desacuerdo acerca de cuales parámetros son los importantes.



Últimos Acontecimientos Sitio Superfund New Jersey Zinc/Mobil Chemical en DePue, Illinois.



Zanja Sur

¿Cuál es la decisión de la EPA de Illinois sobre la solución para el problema de los sedimentos no naturales de la Zanja Sur? La Agencia de Protección Ambiental de Illinois (EPA de Illinois o la Agencia) ha escogido remover los sedimentos no naturales la Zanja Sur, y almacenarlos en el sitio en una celda provisional de contención. La Agencia de Protección Ambiental de los Estados Unidos (EPA de EE.UU.) está de acuerdo con esta decisión. La EPA de Illinois ha escrito un resumen

que agrupa los comentarios recibidos durante el período de comentarios y las respuestas de la EPA de Illinois y la EPA de EE.UU. a dichos comentarios. Este resumen, al igual que el Récord de Decisión de la Zanja Sur, se encuentra en la Biblioteca Municipal de Selby en DePue para su revisión pública.

¿Cuáles fueron los acontecimientos que llevaron a tomar esta decisión?

Mayo 1998. Las entidades responsables (PRP en inglés) presentaron una propuesta para limpiar los sedimentos de la Zanja Sur, la cual consiste de dejar éstos en el sitio y construir una cápsula sobre los sedimentos.

La EPA de Illinois rechazó esta propuesta por varias razones, incluyendo el hecho de que no cumplía con los reglamentos estatales y federales.

Febrero 2001. A petición de la EPA de Illinois, las PRP presentaron una revisión del plan inicial como una supuesta solución. En esta revisión, los sedimentos no naturales de la Zanja Sur serían dragados y colocados en una celda provisional de contención en el sitio. Las PRP presumieron que sería necesario obtener una suspensión de las leyes y normas de control de contaminación de las aguas, y que la EPA de Illinois tenía la autoridad para otorgarla y apoyaría dicha suspensión. En este momento la EPA de Illinois no tiene esa autoridad.

Septiembre 9 de 2002. La EPA de Illinois presentó una propuesta de un plan para remover los sedimentos no naturales de la Zanja Sur y depositarlos en una celda provisional de contención en el sitio. El plan propuesto requería el cumplimiento con las leyes y normas federales y estatales para el control de la contaminación de las aguas, o la validación que exonere de la necesidad de cumplir con dichas leyes y normas, si fuese necesario. La Agencia estableció un período para los comentarios del público sobre el plan propuesto y otras alternativas estudiadas. La EPA de Illinois, a solicitud de las PRP, extendió la fecha del cierre del período de comentarios del 12 de noviembre al 20 de diciembre de 2002.

Octubre 9 de 2002. La EPA de Illinois sostuvo una audiencia pública para recibir los comentarios orales sobre el plan propuesto y otras alternativas estudiadas.

Zanja Sur descrito en el Récord de Decisión. Se anticipa concluir el trabajo en el 2004, siempre y cuando los niveles del lago y del río sean normales ya que afectan los niveles de las aguas en la Zanja Sur.

Investigación Correctiva General para la Propiedad de la Planta

¿Cuál es el estado de la investigación correctiva general para la propiedad de la planta? Las acciones realizadas en los dos últimos años son las siguientes:

Diciembre 2000. Las PRP para el sitio completaron el trabajo de campo para la Fase I de la investigación de la propiedad de la planta.

Junio 2002. Las PRP entregaron un borrador de informe de tres pulgadas (7,5 cms.) que describe e interpreta los resultados de la toma de muestras. Este documento se denomina un informe de investigación correctiva (RI en inglés).

Febrero 2003. La EPA de Illinois y su contratista revisaron detalladamente este documento y presentaron observaciones importantes a las PRP. Una de las observaciones más significativas de la EPA de Illinois fue que las PRP utilizaron un método inapropiado para determinar cuáles son los químicos de interés en el lugar. Las PRP presentarán pronto métodos alternativos para determinar los químicos de interés, los cuales serán revisados por la EPA de Illinois.

¿Cuales son los próximos pasos en la investigación correctiva de la propiedad de la planta? Se anticipa que los próximos pasos en la investigación de la propiedad de la planta son los siguientes:

- Este invierno, la EPA de Illinois anticipa que las PRP presentarán una revisión del informe RI que la Agencia espera aprobar. Luego, la Agencia hará un resumen del informe en una hoja informativa, que será distribuida a las personas en la lista de correo del proyecto, y colocará el informe completo en la Biblioteca Municipal de Selby en DePue.
- La EPA de Illinois y las PRP identificarán los “vacíos de información”. Los vacíos de información son interrogantes que deben ser contestados antes que se diseñe el remedio. Por ejemplo, si la información actual indica que hay contaminación a 10 pies y no se tomaron muestras por debajo de 10 pies, la interrogante sin respuesta sería, “¿Existe contaminación en profundidades mayores a 10 pies?”
- Si existen vacíos de información, las PRP desarrollarán la Fase II del plan de trabajo para recoger información a fin de llenar tales vacíos.
- Luego de que la EPA de Illinois apruebe el plan de trabajo de la Fase II, las PRP realizarán el trabajo de campo descrito en el plan de trabajo aprobado.
- Las PRP repetirán este proceso hasta tanto hayan recogido la información necesaria para desarrollar un estudio de alternativas (estudio de factibilidad o FS, en inglés). Ellas deberán entonces preparar un informe FS, el cual debe ser aprobado por la EPA de Illinois.

Julio 2003. Las PRP presentaron un plan revisado el cual actualmente está siendo analizado.

Próximos pasos. Luego de que las PRP presenten un plan de estudios adicionales de las aguas superficiales que la EPA de Illinois pueda aprobar, las PRP realizarán el trabajo de campo para llevar a cabo el plan.

Pila de Yeso

¿Cuál es la situación del trabajo en la pila de yeso? Las PRP están más avanzadas de lo previsto con el trabajo de nivelación, siembra de vegetación y el desagüe de la pila de yeso localizada al norte de la ruta 29. Las PRP prevén finalizar la nivelación y la siembra en la pila de yeso a finales de 2004. Las PRP finalizaron la excavación del yeso-fosfático del estanque Clearwater (el estanque en la base de la pila que es visible desde la ruta 29) y lo colocaron en la sección sudoeste, encima de la pila. En el otoño se espera completar la reconstrucción del estanque Clearwater.

¿Cuáles son los próximos pasos del trabajo en la pila de yeso? El último estanque que queda en el lado sur-oriental de la pila de yeso-fosfático se vaciará este otoño y el área sur-oriental será nivelada, sembrada y provista de vegetación durante el 2004. Las PRP también están procediendo con el estudio hidrogeológico que completará las características del subsuelo y la calidad del agua subterránea. Los datos del estudio hidrogeológico ayudarán a decidir las alternativas finales para el cierre de la pila y serán usados para llevar a cabo un programa de monitoreo de largo plazo.

Suelos Afuera de la Planta – Incluyendo Suelos Residenciales

¿Qué pasa con la toma de muestras de suelos afuera de la planta, incluyendo muestras de suelos residenciales? La EPA de Illinois se reunirá este otoño con las PRP para iniciar la planificación de la toma de muestras de los suelos afuera del sitio. En 1992 la EPA de Illinois detectó niveles elevados de metales pesados en 20 muestras de suelos residenciales. El objetivo de la toma de muestras futuras es determinar si los niveles elevados plantean una amenaza a la salud de los residentes expuestos a largo plazo. El Departamento de Salud Pública de Illinois (IDPH en inglés) evaluó las muestras de suelo de 1992 y concluyó que las concentraciones de metales pesados en tales muestras no representaban un riesgo a corto plazo. En el ínterin, el IDPH recomendó que los residentes tomen precauciones de sentido común para limitar su exposición al suelo. Estas precauciones incluyen el no permitir que los niños coman afuera, lavarse las manos antes de comer y mantener las ventanas cerradas durante días ventosos para que el polvo no entre a las casas.

Comité del Uso del Terreno

¿Qué es el Comité del Uso del Terreno? La EPA de EE.UU. otorgó en julio de 2002 al municipio de DePue una subvención de servicios. El objetivo de dicha subvención es dar asistencia a la comunidad para desarrollar una serie de recomendaciones para el uso futuro del terreno en el sitio Superfund New Jersey Zinc/ Mobil Chemical. El propósito de éstas recomendaciones es proporcionar asesoría a la EPA de Illinois y a la EPA de EE.UU. sobre los objetivos que la comunidad tiene para el uso del sitio. El contratista que maneja este proceso, E² Inc., ayudó a reunir un comité que consiste en



www.epa.state.il.us
Rod R. Blagoje

New Jersey Zinc/Mobil Chemical

New Jersey Zinc/Mobil Chemical Site

You are invited to comment on

The Proposed Plan and Other Remedies Considered For The South Ditch Sediments

Fact Sheet #8 September 2002

DePue, Illinois

What is the South Ditch? The South Ditch is a ditch between the plant property of the New Jersey Zinc/Mobil Chemical Superfund Site and Lake DePue. (For more information on the site, see page 7.)

Historically, the ditch has received runoff from the former plant property. Because of the nature of past plant operations, the runoff contained high levels of metals that contaminated sediments in the ditch. These contaminated sediments are called "unnatural" sediments.

In 1995, the State of Illinois and the potentially responsible parties (PRPs)¹ signed an interim consent order². One of the requirements of that order was for the PRPs to investigate the sediments in the South Ditch and, if necessary, construct a remedy for the sediments. The PRPs completed the investigation in 1996.



Alternatives Studied for the South Ditch Sediments

The PRPs studied four main alternatives to remedy the South Ditch sediments. These alternatives are described on the next two pages. The Illinois EPA has designated one alternative (4b) as the Illinois EPA proposed plan. The public is invited to comment on all the studied alternatives as well as the proposed plan.

Costs are given in 1997 dollars, because the study of alternatives was conducted in 1997. All alternatives except Alternative 1 include institutional controls. In the short term, these controls would include "No Trespassing" signs and limited fencing. Long-term institutional controls could include restrictions on the deed of the property limiting certain activities such as excavation, swimming and fishing.

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Alternative 1 No Action/Natural Recovery.

This alternative is a passive form of action involving natural processes. In this case, the natural process of siltation caused by regular flooding of the Illinois River would gradually cover the "unnatural" sediment. As long as the Illinois River sediment covered the "unnatural" sediment, humans and other organisms would not come into contact with the elevated levels of metals. As developed by the PRPs, this alternative would also include monitoring.

Estimated cost in 1997 dollars: \$429,000 (\$0 capital cost and \$21,665 estimated annual operation and maintenance [O &M] cost)

Estimated months to construct: 0

Estimated time for sediments to become covered: 30 years

Alternative 2 Enhanced Natural Recovery with Surface Water Diversion.

This alternative would be similar to Alternative 1 in that it would rely on the natural process of siltation eventually covering the "unnatural" sediment with a clean layer of silt. The difference is that water currently flowing into the ditch would be directed around the ditch so that the water does not wash the "unnatural" sediment into the lake. Then a series of dams would be constructed across the ditch. The dams across the ditch would be constructed low enough so that when the Illinois River is in flood stage, river water (with sediment) would wash over the dams into the ditch. Low berms would be constructed on both sides of the ditch. As the floodwaters recede, the sediment from the river water would be retained behind the dams and berms. This "clean" river sediment eventually would cover the "unnatural" sediment with a cap.

Estimated cost in 1997 dollars: \$1,176,000 (\$608,000 capital cost and \$28,662 annual O & M cost)

Estimated months to construct: Less than six months

Estimated time for sediments to become covered: Five to 15 years

Alternative 3 Above-Grade Cap.

This alternative would involve redirection of the surface water that flows into the ditch so that it would flow into a new drainage ditch. The sediment would be stabilized by adding kiln dust, fly ash or other material. A two to three foot cap of compacted clay soils would be placed on top of a special geofabric that would be laid over the top of the "unnatural" sediments. The cap would be vegetated, and riprap, such as big rocks, would be placed on the sides to prevent the sediment from eroding during rainfall. As long as the cap is intact, it would prevent people or animals from coming in contact with the "unnatural" sediments. Institutional controls would be placed on the property to prevent people from digging into or in other ways damaging the cap.

Estimated cost in 1997 dollars: \$1,387,000 (\$946,000 capital cost and \$22,330 annual O & M cost)

Estimated months to construct: Less than six months

Alternative 4 Removal of "Unnatural" Sediment.

This alternative is divided into three sub alternatives (4a, 4b and 4c). There are several common elements among the three sub alternatives.

Common Elements of 4a, 4b and 4c

- **The sediment would be removed.** The "unnatural" sediment would be removed by a combination of mechanical and hydraulic dredging. The sediment would be excavated as a semi-solid and/or dredged as a slurry (suspended in water). The sediments would be transferred to a settling basin probably located on the south side of the railroad tracks where the old dump was formerly located. Here the sediment would be allowed to settle out. Most of the water would be returned to the ditch. Three ways of disposing of the sediment were considered and are described on page 3.
- **The water now flowing into the ditch, including the spring water in the ditch, would be temporarily rerouted around the ditch.** In order for the sediments to be removed, the water now flowing through the ditch would be rerouted around the ditch and discharged into Lake DePue at another location for the period of dredging. The water could be temporarily diverted by a combination of interception trenches, shallow groundwater wells and piping in or near the springs.

Differences in methods of sediment disposal in sub alternatives 4a, 4b and 4c

- **Sub alternative 4a.** In this sub alternative, the PRPs proposed to transport the dewatered sediment to a nearby fertilizer plant. The zinc and copper in the sediment are valued micronutrients and would be added to the fertilizer being manufactured. The fertilizer plant withdrew their interest in the South Ditch sediments so this option was abandoned. The fertilizer plant subsequently closed.
- **Sub alternative 4b.** In this sub alternative, an interim containment unit would be constructed on the former plant property site for the sediment after the sediment has been dewatered in the settling basins and stabilized with fly ash, kiln dust or other additives. A permanent remedy for the sediment would be selected later, when the remedy for the entire site is chosen.

The interim unit would be constructed over an area of contaminated soil and groundwater on the former plant property. The sediment would be placed on top of a liner, such as recompacted clay and high-density polyethylene (HDPE), to prevent the metals in the sediment from being washed down into the soil below. An aggregate drainage layer such as gravel would be placed on top of the liner before the sediment is placed in the containment unit. Water draining through the sediment would be collected periodically from this drainage layer and sent to the water treatment plant already constructed and being operated by the PRPs. The water treatment plant was required by the interim consent decree and has been constructed by the PRPs to treat water coming off the plant property so the water meets state and federal regulations before it is discharged into the Illinois River.

To prevent rain from entering the containment unit, the unit would be covered with HDPE and a clay layer graded to shed water. The clay layer would be vegetated. The current thinking is that this containment unit will be located north of the zinc slag pile toward the west end. The actual location will be determined during the design phase of the project.

Estimated cost: \$1,895,000 (\$1,677,000 capital cost and \$11,000 annual O & M cost)
Months to construct: Less than six months.

- **Sub alternative 4c.** In this sub alternative, the sediment would be removed from the settling basins after it is dewatered, stabilized with a material like fly ash or kiln dust and shipped off

site for disposal at a permitted, compliant, non-hazardous waste landfill.

Estimated cost: \$2,402,000

Months to construct: Less than six months.

Human and Ecological Risk Assessments of the Ditch Sediments

What is the concern with the sediments? There are two concerns. One concern is for human health. The second is an ecological concern; that is, a concern about plants and animals that may be affected by the ditch sediments. The following evaluation of the risk that the sediments might pose to human health and the environment is based on the 1996 investigation results.

- **Human Health Risk.** The South Ditch is in the annual floodplain of the Illinois River and unsuitable for residences; therefore, risk was not considered for residential use. Risk was considered for two other scenarios. The first scenario is that of a child trespasser; that is, for a child playing in the South Ditch for four hours per day, 50 days per year for six years. The second scenario is that of a construction worker who is digging in the ditch sediment for short periods of time.

There are no standards for metals in sediments. Since there are no standards, the U.S. EPA and the Illinois EPA have calculated screening values to serve as guidelines in evaluating whether certain concentrations of chemicals in sediment pose a threat to humans. The Illinois EPA and U.S. EPA consider exposure to a chemical at concentrations above the screening value to pose either a potential cancer or potential non-cancer risk³. An example of a non-cancer risk is a concentration of lead that would damage the developing nervous system of a child. Exposure can be from eating, drinking, breathing or touching a chemical or, in this case, sediment that contains the chemical.

Conclusion. The maximum levels of arsenic, copper and lead in South Ditch sediment exceed screening levels for a child trespasser. The metal concentrations in the South Ditch sediment also exceed the Illinois EPA arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead and zinc screening levels for construction workers.

- **Ecological Risk.** Ecological risk was measured by placing two benthic organisms (midge larvae and scud) in samples of sediment collected in eight locations along the length of the ditch. Benthic organisms are small organisms that would normally live on the bottom of streams. These organisms are important, because they are food for larger organisms such as fish and waterfowl.

Conclusion. One hundred percent of the midge larvae died within four days in sediment from seven of the eight sample locations. In the eighth sediment sample, 85% of the midge larvae died within four days. One hundred percent of the scud in all eight samples died within four days.

For comparison, two sediment samples were collected from nearby Turner Lake. Within four days, 22 percent of midge larvae died in one sample and 35 percent died in the other sample. For scud, 22 percent died in one sample within four days and 23 percent died in the other sample.

Evaluation of Remedy Alternatives

What is the objective of the South Ditch sediment remedy? There are three main objectives for the South Ditch remedy: (1) to reduce the potential for flood water or water moving through the ditch to move the "unnatural" sediment into Lake DePue; (2) to reduce the risk to humans or sensitive plants or animals coming into contact with the "unnatural" sediment, and (3) to be compatible with future site-wide remedies.

How are the alternative remedies evaluated? The federal Superfund Law specifies the following nine criteria for evaluation of remedies. They are (1) overall protection of human health and the environment, (2) compliance with applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements (ARARs) under federal or state laws, (3) long-term effectiveness and permanence, (4) reduction of toxicity, mobility or volume of contaminants through treatment, (5) short-term effectiveness, (6) implementability, (7) cost, (8) support agency acceptance and (9) community acceptance.

Criteria one and two are called threshold criteria, because all remedies must meet these two criteria. Criteria three through seven are called balancing criteria, because they are weighed against one another. Criteria eight and nine are considered modifying criteria.

Summary of Evaluation of Each Alternative Against the Nine Criteria					
Criteria	Alternative 1 Natural Recovery / No Action	Alternative 2 Enhanced Natural Recovery with Surface Water Diversion	Alternative 3 Above Grade Cap	Alternative 4B Removal with On-Site Consolidation	Alternative 4C Removal with Off-Site Disposal
1 Overall protection of human health and the environment	■	■	■	■	■
2 Compliance with ARARs	□	□	□	■	■
3 Long-term effectiveness and permanence	□	□	□	■	■
4 Reduction in toxicity, mobility, or volume through treatment	□	□	■	■	■
5 Short-term effectiveness	□	□	■	■	■
6 Implementability	□	□	■	■	■
7 Cost	\$429,000	\$1,176,000	\$1,387,000	\$1,895,000	\$2,402,000
8 Support agency acceptance	The USEPA has reviewed the components of Alternative 4-B and supports its acceptance as the recommended alternative pending review of public comments.				
9 Community acceptance	Community acceptance of the recommended alternative will be evaluated after the public comment period.				

■ Fully Meets Criteria; □ Partially Meets Criteria; □ Does Not Meet Criteria

¹ The Superfund law specifies that potentially responsible parties are past and present owners and operators of the site. In this case, the potentially responsible parties are Viacom International Inc., ExxonMobil Corporation and Horsehead Industries, Inc. These three companies call themselves the "DePue Group." Since DePue citizens have expressed confusion about the name "DePue Group," thinking it belongs to a group of local citizens, this fact sheet will refer to these three companies as the potentially responsible parties (PRPs). The Illinois EPA oversees the work of the PRPs to ensure that samples are collected and other work is conducted as described in the Illinois EPA approved work plans.

² A consent order is a legally binding court order agreed upon by the parties entering into the order. The order lists the benefits and obligations of all the parties who signed the order. In this case, the consent order was filed in the 13th Judicial Circuit Court

in Bureau County, Illinois. This order is "interim" because it covers only investigations, design of the remedy and certain actions such as the remedy for the South Ditch. A second order will be negotiated for the implementation of the overall site remedy.

³ For more information on how risk is calculated, see the Proposed Plan and the study of South Ditch remedies. These documents are in the project repository at the Selby Township Library in DePue.

Illinois EPA Proposed Plan

What is the Illinois EPA Proposed Plan? The Illinois EPA Proposed Plan is Alternative 4b, which is removal of "unnatural" sediment and consolidation of the sediment in an on-site interim containment unit. The public is invited to comment on this proposal as well as all alternatives studied.

Why does the Illinois EPA prefer Alternative 4b? Alternatives 4b and 4c are the only alternatives that meet both of the first two criteria. (See the above table.) In the Agency's opinion, 4b provides the best balance of criteria three through seven. Criteria 9 will be evaluated after the end of the public comment period.

Other Questions

How much sediment would be removed? Approximately 8,000 cubic yards of sediment would be removed. The "unnatural" sediment has characteristics distinct from the sediment in the surrounding area. For example, the "unnatural" sediment is much looser and of a different color.

Determination of which sediment will be removed will be based on the physical characteristics. In later phases, a comprehensive investigation of the area surrounding the South Ditch will be conducted.

When is construction planned to begin? If the Proposed Plan is accepted, treatability studies and design work should be completed in the summer of 2003. The entire South Ditch remedy is expected to be completed by the fall of 2004.

The mouth of the South Ditch has moved over time. The Illinois EPA is aware that the mouth of the South Ditch may have moved over time and that contamination probably is located in other places in the area around the ditch. The whole Southeast Area will be investigated in later stages of the project. If additional remedies are necessary, the Illinois EPA will submit a Proposed Plan(s) to the public for comment before selecting an additional remedy(s) for the area.

Who will conduct the South Ditch remedy? The PRPs will construct the remedy for the South Ditch with Illinois EPA oversight.

Is the remedy implementable? The Illinois EPA's position is that the Proposed Plan can be implemented. It may be difficult to implement, but it is possible. The PRPs, at a citizens' advisory group meeting, raised questions about their ability to meet water quality standards during dredging. The Illinois EPA's position is that it is highly important to keep additional contaminated sediment from entering the lake and that every effort must be made to meet water quality standards. The Agency takes into account naturally occurring disturbances of the sediment, such as wind and wave conditions, when considering compliance. But, releases of contaminants caused by dredging can and should be avoided to the greatest extent practicable.

The Illinois EPA Proposed Plan, however, does allow the PRPs to conduct treatability studies. If the PRPs demonstrate through treatability studies that they cannot meet the standards, then the Illinois EPA will reconsider its position.

Next Steps

How will the final decision about the South Ditch sediments be made? The Illinois EPA and U.S. EPA will carefully consider all the public comments made during the public comment period including the oral comments at the hearing and the written comments submitted to the Illinois EPA hearing officer. See the enclosed flyer for more information on submitting comments.

After considering these comments, the Illinois EPA will make a final decision about the remedy in consultation with the U.S. EPA. The Illinois EPA will write a Record of Decision, which will include a summary of comments received during the comment period and the Agencies' response to these comments. A notification of the Record of Decision will be advertised in the local newspaper. The complete document will be placed in the Selby Township Library in DePue.

What is the New Jersey Zinc/Mobil Chemical Superfund Site? A primary zinc smelter and other industrial processes were located at the New Jersey Zinc/Mobil Chemical site in DePue from the early 1900s until the late 1980s. See map on page 1 for the location of the site. The main concern at former zinc smelters is possible contamination with metals such as zinc, cadmium, copper, lead and arsenic. The purpose of the Superfund project is to evaluate whether past plant operations have affected the properties on or around the site and to remedy harmful effects, if necessary. The site was placed on the federal Superfund list in 1999. Superfund is the common name given to a list of the nation's most hazardous sites that are eligible for investigation and, if necessary, a remedy under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act.

For More Information

Contacts: Virginia Wood, Illinois EPA Community Relations Coordinator at 1021 North Grand Ave. East, P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, IL 62794-9276, telephone number 217-785-1269.

Rich Lange, Illinois EPA Project Manager at P.O. Box 1515, LaSalle, IL, 61301, telephone number 815-447-2125.

The PRPs have asked that a contact for their group be listed. The PRP contact is Jim Frank, Frank and Cowles, 7226 N. State Route 29, Springfield, IL 62707, telephone number 217-487-7686.

Repositories: The Illinois EPA has placed project documents and fact sheets in the Selby Township Library in DePue for public review (815-447-2660). Please call for hours.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Citizen groups desiring technical assistance in interpreting data from the New Jersey Zinc/Mobil Chemical investigations may be eligible for a Technical Assistance Grant (TAG). The TAG is a U.S. EPA program that provides up to \$50,000 per site to community groups wishing to hire consultants to interpret data generated during a Superfund investigation. Twenty percent of the total funding amount must be provided by the group. These funds may be paid in cash and/or by using in-kind services. TAGs cannot be used to duplicate field or laboratory work. Their purpose is to give the public a better understanding of existing documents and site activities.

Municipalities, other governmental agencies, political subdivisions, potentially responsible parties, academic institutions and headquarters of public interest groups are not eligible to receive TAGs. However, members of these groups may belong to a

community organization requesting a TAG.

Additional information about TAGs is available by contacting Susan Pastor, TAG Coordinator, U.S.EPA, P-19J, Office of Public Affairs, 77 West Jackson, Chicago, IL 60604. She can be reached at 1-800-621-8431 or 312-353-1325. TAG information is also available on the U.S. EPA web page at www.epa.gov/superfund/tools/tag